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MONTANA

EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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A Montana Tool for Career Guidance

by Francis Stephenson, Research and Analysis Bureau, Montana Career Resource Network Training and Development Specialist

Choosing a career can be one of our major decisions in life. That's why in schools across Montana career planning has grown in importance.

A greater emphasis is being put on career exploration in our schools based on information concerning economic outlooks and occupational awareness. With the rising cost of education, students can no longer afford to spend additional years of college aimlessly searching for that right program of study. With this in mind, it has become more important to have some form of career development training in high school.

To assist with this need, the Montana Career Resource Network (MCRN), of the Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau, is committed to the mission of improving Montanans' ability to plan careers, prepare for work, seek work, and plan training programs. In view of this focus, MCRN has developed an Internet version of the Montana Career Information System (MCIS).

MCIS is also unique to other systems in that it is a state-based delivery system built by Montanans for Montanans. Occupation and industry information contained in MCIS is specific to Montana, including state and local financial aid, private technical schools and apprenticeship programs. All of this information is the most accurate and up-to-date available.

MCIS is a comprehensive website designed to help teenagers and adults explore occupations, research programs of study and training, colleges and universities, and sources of financial aid. It has tools to assess skills and interests and to help users learn job search skills. MCIS offers descriptions of more than 490 occupations, 140 explanations of continuing education opportunities, information on more than 100 Montana schools, more than 3,500 schools nationwide, and coverage of more than 1,400 grants and scholarships.

(continued on next page)

On the Internet at:
www.ourfuturesyourfuture.org

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The MCIS Internet program is designed for use by students in our schools throughout Montana, as well as for adults who wish to explore occupations and education.

MCIS is different from other career resources that are located on the Internet. Internet MCIS is an example of a linked system. Information is linked and related on-screen so a user can easily move between related information.

MCIS is a true system of career information, not several resources associated together by a common website. For example, when doing research in MCIS, a user may navigate from an occupation to its program of study, to the schools that provide the educational program, and then to the scholarships supporting the program of study.

Information analysts relate and integrate the information content in MCIS, so that it appears seamless to the user. This helps keep the user organized in their search for information.

In October 2002, the MCIS career planning website was made available for home use to all Montanans who have Internet access. Through a grant from the Student Assistance Foundation (SAF), the Montana Career Resource Network has been able to allow students and parents unlimited access to MCIS to plan for their future. This was previously only available to subscribing agencies and schools. Parents are able to participate in the exploration of careers and postsecondary education for their children.

SAF and the Montana Career Resource Network believe that making this tool available to students at home for research and preparation will help counselors and teachers optimize their time with each student.

Currently, the MCIS Internet program is being used in more than half the high schools across Montana. Career counselors have found it to be an invaluable tool in the classroom and are increasingly working to develop their career curriculum around the MCIS system. Free classes are held for the counselors and teachers throughout the state so they can learn the program or remain updated on its navigation.

Since the content of MCIS comes directly from the Department of Labor & Industry, Research & Analysis Bureau, counselors are confident that MCIS contains the most current information available. Added bonuses for having MCIS available over the Internet are the improved access for most schools, as well as the Internet providing a more interesting medium for most students.

Along with MCIS, the Montana Career Resource Network also publishes several learning guides to be used with the MCIS system. The Career Guide is an annual publication containing tips on career planning, obtaining educational guidance, information on union apprenticeship programs, and other career preparation opportunities. This very popular guide is sent yearly, free of charge, to each high school sophomore throughout the state. In 2004, the MCRN will publish a booklet called,

Who Needs Math and Science, containing interviews with professionals around the state of Montana whose careers depend on their knowledge of mathematics and science. In addition, the MCRN has developed many other publications which students and counselors may download from the website, ourfactsyourfuture.org. Click on the MCIS link.

This is only the beginning for MCRN and its delivery system MCIS. The citizens of Montana face many challenges and obstacles as they look ahead to higher education and career opportunities, including rising college costs, tuition and limited financial aid, and which programs of study to pursue. MCIS is an effective tool to help users in forging a path towards their future. Montana Career Resource Network has a vision of providing the knowledge and tools, as well as the belief that Montana has the brightest and best students in country. ■

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE TRENDS

Editor: Tina Hash

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840 Helena Ave.

P.O. Box 1728
Helena MT 59624

406-444-2430
TDD 406-444-0532

FAX 406-444-2638

www.ourfactsyourfuture.org

Economic highlights and employment outlook

Civilian labor force

Montana's civilian labor force averaged 485,100 for the third quarter of 2003—up 8,100 over the quarter, and up 16,000 over the year.

Employed

The number of Montanans employed during the quarter averaged 465,600—up 7,800 over the quarter, and up 13,800 over the year.

Unemployed

The number of Montanans unemployed during the quarter averaged 19,500—up 300 over the quarter, and up 2,200 over the year.

The average unemployment rate

for the quarter was 4.0 percent—the same as last quarter and up three-tenths of a percentage point over the year. ■

Quarterly Employment Trends *

Quarter	Montana Civilian Labor Force	MONTANA		Unemployment Rate (Montana)	UNITED STATES Unemployment Rate (U.S.)
		Montanans Employed	Montanans Unemployed		
2003-3rd	485,100	465,600	19,500	4.0%	6.0%
2003-2nd	477,000	457,800	19,200	4.0%	6.1%
2003-1st	464,600	440,200	24,400	5.2%	6.3%
2002-4th	462,500	441,000	21,500	4.7%	5.6%
2002-3rd	469,100	451,800	17,300	3.7%	5.7%

*Rounded Civilian Labor Force Numbers, 2003 Benchmark (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Wage and salary jobs by industry sectors

(NOTE: Numbers may not total due to rounding.)

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in Montana averaged 401,600 jobs the third quarter of 2003—up about 1,900 jobs over the quarter, and up approximately 300 jobs over the year.

Natural resources (logging) and mining averaged 6,200 jobs—up 200 jobs over the quarter, but down 200 jobs over the year.

Construction averaged 24,300 jobs—up 2,000 jobs over the quarter, and up about 100 jobs over the year.

Manufacturing averaged 18,800 jobs—down 100 jobs over the quarter, and down about 1,400 over the year.

Trade, transportation and utilities averaged 85,700 jobs—up 1,500 jobs over the quarter, but down 200 jobs over the year.

Information averaged 7,700 jobs—down 300 jobs over the quarter, and down 200 jobs over the

year.

Financial activities averaged 20,100—up 300 jobs over the quarter and up about 500 over the year, mostly in finance and insurance.

Professional and business services averaged 32,800 jobs—up 100 jobs over the quarter, and up 100 jobs over the year.

Private educational and health services averaged 52,400 jobs—down 700 jobs over the quarter, and up about 1,100 over the year. (Health services jobs dominate this supersector, with *private* educational services accounting for only 3,500 jobs during third quarter 2003.)

Leisure & hospitality averaged 55,700 jobs—up about 3,800 jobs over the quarter, and down 200 jobs over the year.

Other services averaged 16,100 jobs—even over the quarter, but down 200 jobs over the year.

Government averaged 81,900 jobs—down 4,700 jobs over the quarter, and up about 100 jobs over the year.



Average weekly hours and earnings

Average weekly earnings for private production workers averaged \$424.45 for the third quarter of 2003—up \$12.61 over the quarter, and up \$20.70 over the year.

Average weekly hours averaged 32.7—up six-tenths of an hour over the quarter, and up four-tenths of an hour over the year.

Average hourly earnings averaged \$12.98 for the quarter—up 15 cents over the quarter, and up 48 cents over the year. ■

Industry news from around the state

(Gathered primarily from state newspaper reports)

Natural Resources & Mining

•Montana's federal farm subsidies dropped from \$476 million in 2001 to \$262 million in 2002. In addition, Montanans with land in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) received more than \$110 million in 2002, compared to \$65 million for wheat subsidies.

•Fidelity Exploration and Production Co., a subsidiary of Montana Dakota Utilities in Bismarck, N.D., plans to drill between 150 and 175 new coal-bed methane wells in Montana in 2003. The company is the state's largest producer of natural gas. Coal-bed methane is natural gas and many of the state's methane fields are in southeastern Montana's Tongue and Powder river basins.

•The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved Montana's Board of Environmental Review (BER) water quality standards, binding pollution limits on Montana and Wyoming methane operations that discharge wastewater into streams and rivers.

•The Bureau of Land Management has been directed by the Bush Administration to remove obstacles on oil and gas development in parts of five Rocky Mountain states, including Montana.

BLM field offices in Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico will evaluate whether the restrictions can be removed. One area of focus includes Montana's Overthrust Belt.

•Whitehall's Golden Sunlight mine will continue operating at least until 2007. The mine employs around 150 people between employees and contractors.

•The Stillwater mine announced new contracts to sell palladium to South Korea and China clients. In June 2003, Norilsk Nickel of Moscow, Russia purchased 51 percent of the Montana mine for \$100 million in cash and around 877,000 ounces of palladium. Stillwater continues to seek a buyer of the 877,000 ounces stored in a London bank vault.

•Montana Resources in Butte is gearing up again. The mine hired its first contingent of workers to first repair machinery. The mine has been idled since 2000. The company has received nearly 1,000 resumes, mainly from Butte and some from around Montana and Nevada.

•Tourists are helping supplement some Billings area ranching incomes. The ranching families have branched out to bed and breakfast operations, including horseback riding, homestyle meals and educating guests about ranch life in the area.

•Twenty more Montana counties were added to the severe drought list by the state's Drought Advisory Committee. The report states all but a few counties in western Montana and much of northeast Montana are on the severe drought list.

Construction

•Homesteader Park in Huntley will receive improvements to its barbecue pits, beer gardens and cook shack. The Adolph Coors Foundation awarded \$10,000 to the Huntley Project Lions Club to help pay for upgrades.

•Gallatin and Missoula counties added the most new housing units in Montana between 2000 and 2002, according to Census Bureau estimates. Gallatin County added 1,241 new units and Missoula County 1,016, during the time period.

Manufacturing

•**A&S Tribal Industries**, a manufacturing company on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, is closing in on a military contract which could provide 200 jobs and \$20 million for northeast Montana. The company signed a preliminary contract with Northrop Grumman Mission Systems. A&S Tribal Industries, which meets National Aeronautics and Space Administration Standards, would provide parts for military airplanes and fighter jets.

•**Malta** is the site for the only U.S. tribally-owned meat packing plant. The plant has its own U.S. Department of Agriculture inspector on board and will employ 21 people to cut, process, wrap, sell and deliver beef, buffalo, hogs and lamb.

•**Owens & Hurst Lumber Company** employees returned to work after a brief layoff. A court-ordered injunction on harvesting timber from the Kootenai National Forest contributed to a shortage of logs and the need for the 11-day layoff.

•**A Deer Lodge couple plans to buy Louisiana-Pacific's** local facility. The local lumber mill and fingerjoint operation will become Sun Mountain Lumber, Inc. when the sale is finalized.

•**Plum Creek Timber Co.** loggers went back to work after extreme fire danger and lack of logs forced the closure of several mills in western Montana.

•**Mallard Cove Custom Log Homes**, providing the world's first maintenance free log homes, has opened a business in Montana. Customers can view their model log home on the Yellowstone River between Columbus and Reed Point.

Trade, Transportation & Utilities

•**Mountain View Reload USA, Inc.** held an official grand opening after opening its Shelby business in 2002. The company serves as a direct shipping route from British Columbia to southern U.S. markets. The company currently ships lumber south and steel and drilling products to Canada.

•**A \$3.25 million hydroelectric plant** will be built at the Tiber Dam in Liberty County. The new facility will provide enough energy for 4,000 homes and should be operational by April 2004.

•**Wheat Montana, the Three Forks bakery**, continues to expand. A new store in Missoula should open in January and the company is looking to open stores in Billings and Great Falls and possibly Big Sky.

•**Schwan's** in Billings received a new freezer unit as part of a recent renovation. A new 30 by 60-foot freezer was installed and several offices, three truck bays, computer room and new restrooms were constructed.

•**The Yellow Bus** recently opened in Billings. The store sells school and education supplies and is located on King Park Drive.

•**Bi-Mart** is looking at space in the Havre Holiday Village Shopping Center. The membership discount retail store usually employs around 50 people and would be Montana's first Bi-Mart.

•**Fleet Feet** plans to open a store in Bozeman. The national franchise sells apparel and specialty running shoes.

•**Big Sky Airlines** cut one of three daily roundtrip flights from Helena to Billings. According to an executive vice president, the canceled lunchtime trip was the least crowded. The airline is also dropping a Billings to Missoula flight and cutting its daily flight from Billings to Denver, according to the report.

Industry news from around the state (continued)

(Gathered primarily from state newspaper reports)

Information

•KHMT and KSVI TV in Billings ended their local news operations and laid off 26 employees. According to the senior vice president and regional manager in Texas, low ratings were responsible for the shutdowns.

•Max Media, Virginia Beach, Va., announced plans to buy KULR-TV in Billings and KFBB-TV in Great Falls.

Financial Activities

•Security Title of Bozeman is building a second branch office. The new office will be located in south Bozeman's Stadium Center.

Professional & Business Services

•Butte's Resodyn Corp. was awarded a Department of Agriculture contract to develop an enhanced method to grow plant cells offering potential to accelerate clinical development of plant-derived pharmaceuticals and reduce problems with supply because of unpredictable weather.

Educational* & Health Services (*Private Education)

•Billings MRI Center's remodeling project added a new MRI (magnetic resonance imagery) system and control center along with new dressing rooms and offices. The center will be able to offer same-day MRI service and handle 25 more patients a day.

•A Billings dermatologist is constructing a new office building which uses the earth's energy to heat and cool the building. The construction calls for low-energy lighting, corrugated steel siding and Clerestory windows, used by architect Frank Lloyd Wright, which use the sun's energy to heat the building.

•Malta will be home to a \$4.4 million health facility being paid for by donations and no taxpayer monies, according to board members.

•Sweet Medical Center in Chinook is being renovated which includes a newly-refurbished X-ray unit.

Leisure & Hospitality

•SpringHill Suites should open in Billings by January 2004. SpringHill Suites, a division of Marriott, chose Billings as its first Montana site.

•A \$100,000 remodeling job on the Bozeman Hotel is nearly complete. Each of the 100-year-old bricks on the building's outside were hand sanded as part of the project.

•Missoula's Century Gaming Inc., the state's largest gaming route operator, will purchase Nevada's largest gaming operator, United Coin Machine Co. Century Gaming's purchase will add 8,200 video poker, keno and slot machines to its current operation.

•A \$1 million Butte home is now a European-style bed and breakfast. The business is located in the Butte Country Club area.

•Construction on the Lodge at Old Works in Anaconda will continue. The developer secured additional financing and hired a new general contractor for the \$6 million hotel, restaurant and bar project. ■



TABLE 1-A

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY

LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

03 BMK
September 2003 (R)

COUNTY	CIVILIAN	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYMENT
	LABOR FORCE			RATE
U.S. (in thousands)	146,166	137,731	8,436	5.8%
MONTANA	478,302	458,953	19,349	4.0%
YELLOWSTONE	73,836	71,529	2,307	3.1%
CASCADE	36,320	34,805	1,515	4.2%
MISSOULA	58,828	56,803	2,025	3.4%
BEAVERHEAD	4,962	4,820	142	2.9%
BIG HORN	5,389	4,725	664	12.3%
BLAINE	2,521	2,408	113	4.5%
BROADWATER	2,114	2,021	93	4.4%
CARBON	4,696	4,552	144	3.1%
CARTER	940	922	18	1.9%
CHOUTEAU	2,419	2,368	51	2.1%
CUSTER	5,474	5,373	101	1.8%
DANIELS	1,204	1,194	10	0.8%
DAWSON	4,775	4,686	89	1.9%
DEER LODGE	3,946	3,776	170	4.3%
FALLON	1,604	1,574	30	1.9%
FERGUS	5,785	5,564	221	3.8%
FLATHEAD	42,770	40,163	2,607	6.1%
GALLATIN	46,622	45,593	1,029	2.2%
GARFIELD	850	838	12	1.4%
GLACIER	5,506	5,004	502	9.1%
GOLDEN VALLEY	461	439	22	4.8%
GRANITE	1,095	1,035	57	5.2%
HILL	9,144	8,832	312	3.4%
JEFFERSON	4,894	4,729	165	3.4%
JUDITH BASIN	1,056	1,026	30	2.8%
LAKE	10,992	10,336	656	6.0%
LEWIS & CLARK	27,540	26,674	866	3.1%
LIBERTY	1,022	998	24	2.3%
LINCOLN	7,245	6,257	988	13.6%
MCCONE	1,139	1,125	14	1.2%
MADISON	4,020	3,903	117	2.9%
MEAGHER	862	832	30	3.5%
MINERAL	1,742	1,600	142	8.2%
MUSSELSHELL	1,746	1,624	122	7.0%
PARK	10,036	9,750	286	2.8%
PETROLEUM	269	259	10	3.7%
PHILLIPS	2,144	2,091	53	2.5%
PONDERA	3,048	2,894	154	5.1%
POWDER RIVER	1,144	1,130	14	1.2%
POWELL	2,321	2,228	93	4.0%
PRAIRIE	638	620	18	2.8%
RAVALLI	18,906	18,001	905	4.8%
RICHLAND	4,995	4,799	196	3.9%
ROOSEVELT	4,209	3,883	326	7.7%
ROSEBUD	4,444	4,185	259	5.8%
SANDERS	4,451	4,143	308	6.9%
SHERIDAN	1,963	1,914	49	2.5%
SILVER BOW	16,477	15,760	717	4.4%
STILLWATER	5,667	5,499	168	3.0%
SWEET GRASS	1,814	1,759	55	3.0%
TETON	3,273	3,176	97	3.0%
TOOLE	2,692	2,619	73	2.7%
TREASURE	363	353	10	2.8%
VALLEY	4,274	4,154	122	2.9%
WHEATLAND	1,090	1,054	36	3.3%
WIBAUX	569	553	16	2.8%
L & C/JEFFERSON LMA	32,434	31,403	1,031	3.2%

SOURCE: LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (LAUS) DATA. SEE TECHNICAL NOTE S-1 ON "SOURCES OF DATA" PAGE AT BACK OF THIS PUBLICATION.



TABLE 1-B
MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
 LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

03 BMK
 August 2003 (R)

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
U.S. (in thousands)	146,967	138,137	8,830	6.0%
MONTANA	487,415	468,717	18,698	3.8%
YELLOWSTONE	76,666	74,249	2,417	3.2%
CASCADE	36,750	35,309	1,441	3.9%
MISSOULA	58,768	56,971	1,797	3.1%
BEAVERHEAD	5,022	4,882	140	2.8%
BIG HORN	5,456	4,774	682	12.5%
BLAINE	2,513	2,410	103	4.1%
BROADWATER	2,274	2,191	83	3.6%
CARBON	4,766	4,629	137	2.9%
CARTER	952	927	25	2.6%
CHOUTEAU	2,568	2,521	47	1.8%
CUSTER	5,643	5,521	122	2.2%
DANIELS	1,235	1,222	13	1.1%
DAWSON	4,764	4,682	82	1.7%
DEER LODGE	4,149	3,945	204	4.9%
FALLON	1,705	1,678	27	1.6%
FERGUS	5,965	5,766	199	3.3%
FATHEAD	43,757	41,537	2,220	5.1%
GALLATIN	47,162	46,248	914	1.9%
GARFIELD	912	904	8	0.9%
GLACIER	5,864	5,278	586	10.0%
GOLDEN VALLEY	498	470	28	5.6%
GRANITE	1,153	1,108	45	3.9%
HILL	9,252	8,907	345	3.7%
JEFFERSON	4,979	4,801	178	3.6%
JUDITH BASIN	1,128	1,093	35	3.1%
LAKE	11,111	10,489	622	5.6%
LEWIS & CLARK	28,026	27,063	943	3.4%
LIBERTY	1,072	1,044	28	2.6%
LINCOLN	7,218	6,279	939	13.0%
MCCONE	1,271	1,256	15	1.2%
MADISON	4,242	4,142	100	2.4%
MEAGHER	912	872	40	4.4%
MINERAL	1,697	1,574	123	7.2%
MUSSELSHELL	1,780	1,673	107	6.0%
PARK	10,393	10,078	315	3.0%
PETROLEUM	295	283	12	4.1%
PHILLIPS	2,228	2,158	70	3.1%
PONDERA	3,117	2,950	167	5.4%
POWDER RIVER	1,328	1,316	12	0.9%
POWELL	2,349	2,257	92	3.9%
PRAIRIE	643	635	8	1.2%
RAVALLI	18,579	17,788	791	4.3%
RICHLAND	5,219	5,046	173	3.3%
ROOSEVELT	4,167	3,838	329	7.9%
ROSEBUD	4,514	4,234	280	6.2%
SANDERS	4,375	4,078	297	6.8%
SHERIDAN	1,988	1,936	52	2.6%
SILVER BOW	16,600	15,824	776	4.7%
STILLWATER	5,781	5,634	147	2.5%
SWEET GRASS	1,889	1,849	40	2.1%
TETON	3,358	3,270	88	2.6%
TOOLE	2,796	2,714	82	2.9%
TREASURE	394	387	7	1.8%
VALLEY	4,471	4,344	127	2.8%
WHEATLAND	1,121	1,096	25	2.2%
WIBAUX	579	566	13	2.2%
L & C/JEFFERSON LMA	33,005	31,884	1,121	3.4%

SOURCE: LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (LAUS) DATA. SEE TECHNICAL NOTE S-1 ON "SOURCES OF DATA" PAGE AT BACK OF THIS PUBLICATION.



TABLE 1-C

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY

LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

03 BMK
July 2003 (R)

COUNTY	CIVILIAN	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYMENT
	LABOR FORCE			RATE
U.S. (in thousands)	147,822	138,503	9,319	6.3%
MONTANA	489,850	469,474	20,376	4.2%
YELLOWSTONE	76,031	73,396	2,635	3.5%
CASCADE	37,264	35,649	1,615	4.3%
MISSOULA	57,941	55,997	1,944	3.4%
BEAVERHEAD	4,979	4,807	172	3.5%
BIG HORN	5,489	4,657	832	15.2%
BLAINE	2,570	2,453	117	4.6%
BROADWATER	2,328	2,242	86	3.7%
CARBON	5,178	5,041	137	2.6%
CARTER	984	961	23	2.3%
CHOUTEAU	2,613	2,555	58	2.2%
CUSTER	5,796	5,649	147	2.5%
DANIELS	1,251	1,230	21	1.7%
DAWSON	4,844	4,753	91	1.9%
DEER LODGE	4,046	3,822	224	5.5%
FALLON	1,772	1,739	33	1.9%
FERGUS	6,069	5,834	235	3.9%
FLATHEAD	42,958	40,803	2,155	5.0%
GALLATIN	46,284	45,310	974	2.1%
GARFIELD	912	903	9	1.0%
GLACIER	6,109	5,379	730	11.9%
GOLDEN VALLEY	497	471	26	5.2%
GRANITE	1,144	1,091	53	4.6%
HILL	9,397	8,994	403	4.3%
JEFFERSON	5,088	4,888	200	3.9%
JUDITH BASIN	1,150	1,104	46	4.0%
LAKE	11,668	10,980	688	5.9%
LEWIS & CLARK	28,695	27,574	1,121	3.9%
LIBERTY	1,059	1,034	25	2.4%
LINCOLN	7,054	6,190	864	12.2%
MCCONE	1,259	1,243	16	1.3%
MADISON	4,404	4,278	126	2.9%
MEAGHER	931	901	30	3.2%
MINERAL	1,701	1,584	117	6.9%
MUSSELSHELL	1,920	1,818	102	5.3%
PARK	10,302	9,969	333	3.2%
PETROLEUM	314	302	12	3.8%
PHILLIPS	2,220	2,131	89	4.0%
PONDERA	3,233	3,035	198	6.1%
POWDER RIVER	1,258	1,244	14	1.1%
POWELL	2,501	2,375	126	5.0%
PRAIRIE	629	622	7	1.1%
RAVALLI	19,213	18,348	865	4.5%
RICHLAND	5,292	5,096	196	3.7%
ROOSEVELT	4,410	4,042	368	8.3%
ROSEBUD	4,713	4,398	315	6.7%
SANDERS	4,417	4,123	294	6.7%
SHERIDAN	2,065	2,000	65	3.1%
SILVER BOW	17,247	16,394	853	4.9%
STILLWATER	5,877	5,726	151	2.6%
SWEET GRASS	1,869	1,818	51	2.7%
TETON	3,461	3,370	91	2.6%
TOOLE	2,845	2,756	89	3.1%
TREASURE	374	367	7	1.9%
VALLEY	4,461	4,310	151	3.4%
WHEATLAND	1,136	1,104	32	2.8%
WIBAUX	629	613	16	2.5%
L & C/JEFFERSON LMA	33,783	32,462	1,321	3.9%

SOURCE: LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (LAUS) DATA SEE TECHNICAL NOTE S-1 ON "SOURCES OF DATA" PAGE AT BACK OF THIS PUBLICATION



TABLE II MONTANA CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY STATISTICS (IN THOUSANDS)

2003 ANNUAL DATA (Preliminary)	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AVG
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE 1/	462.8	464.9	466.0	470.2	476.7	484.1	489.9	487.4	478.3				
EMPLOYED PERSONS	438.0	440.5	442.1	451.3	458.9	463.1	469.5	468.7	459.0				
LABOR MANAGEMENT DISPUTE 2/	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
PERSONS EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE 2/	24.7	27.4	27.9	32.1	33.9	32.8	35.3	36.2	31.5				
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	24.8	24.3	23.9	18.8	17.8	21.0	20.4	18.7	19.3				
% OF LABOR FORCE, UNADJUSTED 3/	5.4%	5.2%	5.1%	4.0%	3.7%	4.4%	4.2%	3.8%	4.0%				
% OF LABOR FORCE, SEASONALLY ADJ	4.3%	4.0%	4.2%	4.0%	4.2%	4.7%	4.7%	4.7%	4.9%				
U.S. UNADJUSTED	6.5%	6.4%	6.2%	5.8%	5.8%	6.5%	6.3%	6.0%	5.8%				
U.S. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	5.7%	5.8%	5.8%	6.0%	6.1%	6.4%	6.2%	6.1%	6.1%				
2002 ANNUAL DATA	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AVG
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE 1/	455.3	458.0	459.3	462.6	464.4	472.0	475.8	470.1	461.4	463.6	463.6	460.3	463.9
EMPLOYED PERSONS	429.4	431.0	433.0	441.1	445.5	451.4	456.6	454.0	444.9	444.3	441.8	436.8	442.5
LABOR MANAGEMENT DISPUTE 2/	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PERSONS EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE 2/	28.1	25.7	23.0	28.5	35.0	41.5	38.7	41.2	37.7	35.3	33.6	29.1	33.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	25.9	26.9	26.3	21.5	18.9	20.6	19.2	16.2	16.5	19.3	21.8	23.5	21.4
% OF LABOR FORCE, UNADJUSTED 3/	5.7%	5.9%	5.7%	4.7%	4.1%	4.4%	4.0%	3.4%	3.6%	4.2%	4.7%	5.1%	4.6%
% OF LABOR FORCE, SEASONALLY ADJ	4.6%	4.6%	4.8%	4.6%	4.6%	4.7%	4.6%	4.4%	4.5%	4.6%	4.7%	4.7%	4.6%
U.S. UNADJUSTED	6.3%	6.1%	6.1%	5.7%	5.5%	6.0%	5.9%	5.7%	5.4%	5.3%	5.6%	5.7%	5.8%
U.S. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	5.6%	5.6%	5.7%	5.9%	5.8%	5.8%	5.8%	5.8%	5.7%	5.8%	5.9%	6.0%	5.8%
2001 ANNUAL DATA	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AVG
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE 1/	463.0	463.0	463.2	464.9	466.0	471.0	473.5	468.0	458.1	458.3	457.6	455.2	463.5
EMPLOYED PERSONS	436.4	436.0	437.5	443.1	446.6	450.8	454.5	450.8	440.9	439.2	436.1	431.9	442.0
LABOR MANAGEMENT DISPUTE 2/	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PERSONS EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE 2/	36.4	34.6	36.8	43.4	44.8	49.6	56.7	55.2	54.4	52.9	45.6	40.9	46.0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	26.6	27.1	25.7	21.8	19.4	20.2	19.0	17.2	17.2	19.1	21.5	23.4	21.5
% OF LABOR FORCE, UNADJUSTED 3/	5.7%	5.8%	5.5%	4.7%	4.2%	4.3%	4.0%	3.7%	3.8%	4.2%	4.7%	5.1%	4.6%
% OF LABOR FORCE, SEASONALLY ADJ	4.7%	4.6%	4.6%	4.7%	4.7%	4.6%	4.5%	4.6%	4.7%	4.6%	4.7%	4.7%	4.6%
U.S. UNADJUSTED	4.7%	4.6%	4.5%	4.2%	4.1%	4.7%	4.9%	4.7%	5.0%	5.3%	5.4%	5.4%	4.7%
U.S. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	4.1%	4.2%	4.2%	4.4%	4.4%	4.6%	4.6%	4.9%	5.0%	5.4%	5.6%	5.8%	4.8%
2000 ANNUAL DATA	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AVG
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE 1/	469.2	472.6	476.3	478.1	481.1	485.9	491.1	485.3	474.6	471.4	468.8	463.6	476.5
EMPLOYED PERSONS	440.2	442.9	448.3	454.4	459.4	463.1	469.0	465.7	455.3	450.6	445.8	439.7	452.9
LABOR MANAGEMENT DISPUTE 2/	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PERSONS EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE 2/	41.9	36.8	38.6	43.1	43.2	42.6	41.3	42.3	46.7	48.0	36.5	36.1	41.5
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	29.1	29.7	28.0	23.7	21.7	22.8	22.1	19.7	19.3	20.8	23.0	23.9	23.6
% OF LABOR FORCE, UNADJUSTED 3/	6.2%	6.3%	5.9%	5.0%	4.5%	4.7%	4.5%	4.1%	4.1%	4.4%	4.9%	5.2%	5.0%
% OF LABOR FORCE, SEASONALLY ADJ	5.1%	5.1%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%	4.7%	5.0%
U.S. UNADJUSTED	4.5%	4.4%	4.3%	3.7%	3.8%	4.1%	4.2%	4.1%	3.8%	3.6%	3.7%	3.7%	4.0%
U.S. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	4.0%	4.1%	4.0%	3.8%	4.1%	4.0%	4.1%	4.1%	4.0%	3.9%	4.0%	3.9%	4.0%

1/ESTIMATES BASED ON NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SAMPLE, CENSUS AND OTHER RELATIONSHIPS; INCLUDES SELF-EMPLOYED, UNPAID FAMILY AND DOMESTIC WORKERS. CURRENT MONTH PRELIMINARY. REVISED TO 2003 BENCHMARKS.

2/NONADDITIONAL: INCLUDED IN TOTAL EMPLOYMENT.

3/COMPUTED FROM WHOLE (UNROUNDED) NUMBERS. RESIDENCE SERIES BEGAN IN JANUARY 1970.

SOURCE: LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (LAUS) DATA. SEE TECHNICAL NOTES S-1 AND S-2 ON "SOURCES OF DATA" PAGE AT BACK OF THIS PUBLICATION.



TABLE III MONTANA STATEWIDE PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY (IN THOUSANDS)

2003 (Preliminary)

02 BM

(ESTABLISHMENT DATA)

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AVG
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL JOBS	384.7	386.5	386.4	393.1	401.2	404.9	399.9	401.7	403.8				
TOTAL PRIVATE	302.6	301.6	301.0	306.8	313.3	319.4	320.5	321.3	317.8				
GOODS PRODUCING	44.4	43.5	43.3	45.3	47.2	49.1	49.3	49.5	49.4				
SERVICE PROVIDING	340.3	343.0	343.1	347.8	354.0	355.8	350.6	352.2	354.4				
NATURAL RESOURCES* & MINING	6.2	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.9	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.2				
MINING	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0				
CONSTRUCTION	19.3	18.7	18.8	20.8	22.3	23.7	24.2	24.6	24.5				
CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS	6.1	5.9	5.5	6.3	6.6	6.8	6.9	7.0	6.9				
HEAVY AND CIVIL ENGINEERING	3.2	3.1	3.4	4.1	4.5	4.8	5.0	5.2	5.2				
SPECIALTY TRADE CONTRACTORS	10.0	9.7	9.9	10.4	11.2	12.1	12.3	12.4	12.4				
MANUFACTURING	18.9	18.6	18.5	18.7	19.0	19.0	18.8	18.8	18.7				
DURABLE GOODS	12.3	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.6	12.5	12.3	12.2	12.2				
WOOD PRODUCT MANUFACTURING	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9				
NONDURABLE GOODS	6.6	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.5				
TRADE, TRANS. & UTILITIES	83.1	82.1	81.8	83.3	84.3	85.1	85.7	85.8	85.7				
WHOLESALE TRADE	15.2	15.0	15.1	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.6	15.5	15.5				
RETAIL TRADE	52.4	51.9	51.5	52.6	53.4	54.1	54.7	54.9	54.7				
TRANS., WAREHOUSE & UTILITIES	15.5	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.4	15.5	15.4	15.4	15.5				
INFORMATION	7.8	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.1	7.8	7.7	7.6				
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	19.6	19.8	19.6	19.7	19.8	20.0	20.1	20.1	20.0				
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERV.	31.2	31.5	31.4	32.3	33.0	32.9	32.8	33.3	32.1				
EDUCATION** & HEALTH SERVICES	52.3	52.4	52.4	52.9	53.4	53.0	51.9	52.4	52.8				
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.7	3.1	3.2	3.8				
HEALTH CARE & SOCIAL SERVICES	48.6	48.5	48.6	49.0	49.4	49.3	48.8	49.2	49.0				
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	48.3	48.6	48.7	49.4	51.4	55.0	56.6	56.6	54.1				
ACCOMMODATION	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.6	9.4	10.9	11.9	11.8	10.8				
FOOD SERV. & DRINKING PLACES	31.7	31.9	31.9	32.4	33.4	34.1	34.5	34.6	33.8				
OTHER SERVICES	15.9	15.8	15.9	15.9	16.2	16.2	16.3	15.9	16.1				
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	82.1	84.9	85.4	86.3	87.9	85.5	79.4	80.4	86.0				
TOTAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	12.1	12.1	12.3	12.6	13.3	14.9	15.4	15.3	15.0				
TOTAL STATE GOVERNMENT***	23.2	24.8	25.2	25.8	25.3	24.0	21.7	22.7	26.1				
TOTAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT****	46.8	48.0	47.9	47.9	49.3	46.6	42.4	42.4	44.9				

*Logging

**Private education

***State government includes state university/college staff and student workers.

****Local government includes public education, K-12.

SOURCE: CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (CES) DATA. SEE TECHNICAL NOTE S-4 ON "SOURCES OF DATA" PAGE AT BACK OF THIS PUBLICATION.

ALSO REFERENCE CES-790 PROGRAM DEFINITION ON "GLOSSARY OF TERMS" PAGE



TABLE IV
METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (MSA)#
PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY
(IN THOUSANDS)
2003 (Preliminary)

02 BM

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AVG
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(ESTABLISHMENT DATA)

BILLINGS MSA (Yellowstone County)

TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL	68.2	68.1	68.6	69.4	70.0	70.6	69.4	70.1	70.1				
TOTAL PRIVATE	59.9	59.4	59.8	60.6	61.3	62.3	61.9	62.5	61.7				
GOODS PRODUCING	6.6	6.3	6.6	6.8	7.1	7.6	7.9	8.0	7.9				
SERVICE PROVIDING	61.6	61.8	62.0	62.6	62.9	63.0	61.5	62.1	62.2				
NAT. RESOURCES*, MINING & CONST	3.7	3.4	3.7	3.9	4.2	4.6	4.9	5.0	4.9				
MANUFACTURING	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0				
TRADE, TRANS. & UTILITIES	17.9	17.6	17.6	18.0	18.1	18.1	18.1	18.2	18.2				
WHOLESALE TRADE	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1				
RETAIL TRADE	9.1	9.0	9.0	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.5				
TRANS., WAREHOUSING & UTIL	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6				
INFORMATION	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1				
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.8				
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERV	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.5	8.5	8.4				
EDUCATION** & HEALTH SERVICES	10.2	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.1	10.2	10.3				
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.8	9.0	9.3	9.0	9.3	8.8				
OTHER SERVICES	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2				
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	8.3	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.3	7.5	7.6	8.4				
TOTAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0				
TOTAL STATE GOVERNMENT***	1.4	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.7				
TOTAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT****	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.0	4.1	4.3	4.7				

MISSOULA MSA (Missoula County)

TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL	50.7	51.3	52.4	52.9	53.6	52.6	51.9	52.5	54.2				
TOTAL PRIVATE	41.6	41.7	41.9	42.3	43.0	43.3	43.3	43.6	43.3				
GOODS PRODUCING	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.8	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.2				
SERVICE PROVIDING	45.2	45.9	46.9	47.3	47.8	46.5	45.8	46.3	46.0				
NAT. RESOURCES*, MINING & CONST	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.4				
MANUFACTURING	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8				
TRADE, TRANS. & UTILITIES	11.8	11.7	11.8	11.8	12.0	11.9	11.8	11.9	12.0				
WHOLESALE TRADE	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9				
RETAIL TRADE	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.6				
TRANS., WAREHOUSING & UTIL	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.5				
INFORMATION	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2				
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4				
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERV	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.1				
EDUCATION** & HEALTH SERVICES	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.6	7.6				
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.6	6.6	6.8	6.8	6.6				
OTHER SERVICES	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2				
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	9.1	9.6	10.5	10.6	10.6	9.3	8.6	8.9	10.9				
TOTAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.7				
TOTAL STATE GOVERNMENT***	4.2	4.5	5.4	5.5	5.4	4.3	3.7	4.2	5.6				
TOTAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT****	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.1	2.9	3.6				

*Logging

**Private education

***State government includes state university/college staff and student workers.

****Local government includes public education, K-12.

A single-county Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is determined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and must have an urbanized area with a population of 50,000 or more. Single-county MSAs are named after their central cities. Billings and Missoula MSA employment is produced by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry for use as a state economic indicator.

SOURCE: CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (CES) DATA. SEE TECHNICAL NOTE S-5 ON "SOURCES OF DATA" PAGE AT BACK OF THIS PUBLICATION. ALSO REFERENCE CES-790 PROGRAM DEFINITION ON "GLOSSARY OF TERMS" PAGE.



TABLE V MONTANA STATEWIDE FEMALE PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY (IN THOUSANDS)

2003 (Preliminary)

02 BM

(ESTABLISHMENT DATA)	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AVG
TOTAL NONFARM	197.2	198.6	198.2	200.6	205.0	205.8	202.0	201.7	205.3				
TOTAL PRIVATE	151.7	151.6	150.9	152.8	156.5	159.6	160.1	160.6	159.1				
GOODS PRODUCING	7.8	7.9	7.5	7.5	7.7	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1				
SERVICE-PROVIDING	189.4	190.7	190.6	193.1	197.4	197.7	193.8	193.6	197.2				
NAT. RESOURCES* & MINING	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5				
CONSTRUCTION	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.4				
MANUFACTURING	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.2				
TRADE, TRANS. & UTILITIES	33.8	32.9	32.9	33.3	34.4	35.1	35.6	36.1	36.3				
INFORMATION	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.6				
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	13.4	13.6	13.3	13.3	13.3	13.6	13.5	13.6	13.5				
PROF. & BUSINESS SERV.	15.7	16.2	15.9	16.4	16.5	16.2	16.2	16.5	16.2				
EDUCATION** & HEALTH SERV.	39.5	39.5	39.6	39.9	40.1	40.1	39.7	39.9	39.9				
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	28.3	28.5	28.4	29.3	31.2	32.8	34.0	33.7	32.2				
OTHER SERVICES	9.6	9.4	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.7	9.4	9.1	9.3				
TOTAL GOVERNMENT***	45.5	47.0	47.3	47.8	48.5	46.2	41.8	41.1	46.2				

*Logging

**Private education

***Total government includes state university/college staff, student workers and public education, K-12.

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT IS PRODUCED BY THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY FOR USE AS A STATE ECONOMIC INDICATOR.

SOURCE: CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (CES) DATA. SEE TECHNICAL NOTE S-5 ON "SOURCES OF DATA" PAGE AT BACK OF THIS PUBLICATION. ALSO REFERENCE CES-790 PROGRAM DEFINITION ON "GLOSSARY OF TERMS" PAGE.



TABLE VI MONTANA HOURS & EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Production Workers

	<u>Production Workers</u> (in Thousands)				<u>Average Weekly Earnings</u>			
	July 2003	Aug. 2003	Sept. 2003	Sept. 2002	July 2003	Aug. 2003	Sept. 2003	Sept. 2002
TOTAL PRIVATE	265.3	265.2	260.7	266.0	\$422.48	\$426.71	\$423.47	\$410.53
GOODS PRODUCING	38.1	38.0	37.8	40.0	\$647.19	\$652.10	\$653.35	\$670.57
SERVICE-PROVIDING	260.6	261.1	253.3	255.7	\$334.51	\$338.60	\$338.38	\$322.58
NAT. RESOURCES & MINING	4.9	4.7	4.8	5.0	\$975.49	\$960.31	\$943.95	\$953.90
CONSTRUCTION	18.9	19.2	19.1	19.6	\$663.53	\$661.01	\$670.50	\$690.43
MANUFACTURING	14.2	14.0	13.9	15.4	\$509.31	\$536.97	\$530.98	\$553.14
TRADE, TRANS. & UTILITIES	72.2	72.3	72.6	72.5	\$421.08	\$427.80	\$412.27	\$398.00
INFORMATION	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.0	\$571.73	\$567.46	\$581.93	\$569.23
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	15.6	15.5	15.3	14.5	\$586.06	\$588.68	\$566.72	\$452.60
PROF. & BUSINESS SERV.	26.8	27.2	26.0	27.7	\$403.33	\$424.39	\$426.42	\$413.01
HEALTH CARE & SOCIAL SERV.	44.0	44.1	43.8	44.0	\$449.57	\$444.55	\$453.60	\$441.08
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	49.3	49.4	46.4	47.9	\$202.02	\$206.15	\$192.48	\$184.24
OTHER SERVICES	13.2	12.7	12.7	13.4	\$280.10	\$295.34	\$278.07	\$293.49

	<u>Average Weekly Hours</u>				<u>Average Hourly Earnings</u>			
	July 2003	Aug. 2003	Sept. 2003	Sept. 2002	July 2003	Aug. 2003	Sept. 2003	Sept. 2002
TOTAL PRIVATE	32.7	32.9	32.4	32.3	\$12.92	\$12.97	\$13.07	\$12.71
GOODS PRODUCING	38.5	38.7	38.5	39.1	\$16.81	\$16.85	\$16.97	\$17.15
SERVICE-PROVIDING	27.6	27.8	27.6	27.5	\$12.12	\$12.18	\$12.26	\$11.73
NAT. RESOURCES & MINING	44.2	44.5	43.4	43.3	\$22.07	\$21.58	\$21.75	\$22.03
CONSTRUCTION	38.2	37.6	37.5	38.4	\$17.37	\$17.58	\$17.88	\$17.98
MANUFACTURING	36.8	38.3	38.2	38.6	\$13.84	\$14.02	\$13.90	\$14.33
TRADE, TRANS. & UTILITIES	34.6	34.5	33.6	33.7	\$12.17	\$12.40	\$12.27	\$11.81
INFORMATION	35.8	36.8	36.1	35.4	\$15.97	\$15.42	\$16.12	\$16.08
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	37.4	37.4	36.8	36.5	\$15.67	\$15.74	\$15.40	\$12.40
PROF. & BUSINESS SERV.	29.7	31.0	30.7	31.6	\$13.58	\$13.69	\$13.89	\$13.07
HEALTH CARE & SOCIAL SERV.	33.6	33.5	33.8	32.6	\$13.38	\$13.27	\$13.42	\$13.53
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	25.9	26.6	24.9	24.5	\$7.80	\$7.75	\$7.73	\$7.52
OTHER SERVICES	26.4	26.8	25.7	27.1	\$10.61	\$11.02	\$10.82	\$10.83

SOURCE: CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (CES) DATA. SEE TECHNICAL NOTE S-4 ON "SOURCES OF DATA" PAGE AT BACK OF THIS PUBLICATION
ALSO REFERENCE CES-790 PROGRAM DEFINITION ON "GLOSSARY OF TERMS" PAGE.

TABLE VII
THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U.S.
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

ALL ITEMS
(1982=1984 = 100)

	2003		2002		2001	
	CPI-U	CPI-W	CPI-U	CPI-W	CPI-U	CPI-W
January	181.7	177.7	177.1	173.2	175.1	171.7
February	183.1	179.2	177.8	173.7	175.8	172.4
March	184.2	180.3	178.8	174.7	176.2	172.6
April	183.8	179.8	179.8	175.8	176.9	173.5
May	183.5	179.4	179.8	175.8	177.7	174.4
June	183.7	179.6	179.9	175.9	178.0	174.6
July	183.9	179.6	180.1	176.1	177.5	173.8
August	184.6	180.3	180.7	176.6	177.5	173.8
September	185.2	181.0	181.0	177.0	178.3	174.8
October			181.3	177.3	177.7	174.0
November			181.3	177.4	177.4	173.7
December			180.9	177.0	176.7	172.9
Dec-to-Dec %			2.4%	2.4%	1.6%	1.3%
ANNUAL AVERAGE:			179.9	175.9	177.1	173.5
Ann Avg %			1.6%	1.4%	2.8%	2.7%

Expenditure Category CPI-U Index	Relative Importance	% Change From			Ann Average %	
		Sept. 2003	Aug. 2003	Sept. 2002	2002	2001
ALL ITEMS	100%	185.2	0.3%	2.3%	1.6%	2.8%
Food & Beverages	16%	181.3	0.2%	2.5%	1.8%	3.1%
Housing	40%	185.8	0.1%	2.4%	2.2%	4.0%
Apparel	5%	122.0	0.5%	-2.1%	-2.6%	-1.8%
Transportation	17%	159.4	0.9%	3.5%	-0.9%	0.7%
Medical Care	6%	299.2	0.5%	4.0%	4.7%	4.6%
Recreation	6%	107.7	0.2%	1.4%	1.2%	1.5%
Education and Communication	5%	110.9	0.1%	1.3%	2.6%	2.6%
Other Goods & Services	5%	299.9	0.1%	1.0%	3.8%	4.2%
Purchasing Power Of Consumer Dollar:		Sept. 2003	Aug. 2003	Sept. 2002	Ann Average	
					2002	2001
(1982=84 = \$1.00)		\$0.54	\$0.54	\$0.55	\$0.56	\$0.56

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) IS A MEASURE OF THE AVERAGE CHANGE IN THE PRICES PAID BY URBAN CONSUMERS FOR A FIXED MARKET BASKET OF GOODS AND SERVICES. THE CPI IS CALCULATED MONTHLY FOR TWO POPULATION GROUPS, ONE CONSISTING ONLY OF THE URBAN HOUSEHOLDS WHOSE PRIMARY SOURCE OF INCOME IS DERIVED FROM THE EMPLOYMENT OF WAGE EARNERS AND CLERICAL WORKERS (CPI-W). AS NEW USES WERE DEVELOPED FOR THE CPI IN RECENT YEARS, THE NEED FOR A BROADER AND MORE REPRESENTATIVE INDEX BECAME APPARENT. THE ALL-URBAN CONSUMER INDEX (CPI-U), INTRODUCED IN 1978, IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE 1982-84 BUYING HABITS OF ABOUT 80% OF THE NONINSTITUTIONAL POPULATION, COMPARED WITH 32% REPRESENTED IN CPI-W.

SOURCE FOR DATA: SEE TECHNICAL NOTE S-6 ON "SOURCES OF DATA" PAGE AT BACK OF THIS PUBLICATION.

Note: The Bureau of Labor Statistics has begun using a new formula for calculating the basic components of the CPI-U and the CPI-W effective with the data starting January 1999.

TABLE VIII
Unemployment Insurance

	Initial Claims											
	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992
January	6,268	6,393	6,098	5,977	5,915	6,749	7,546	7,495	6,588	6,591	6,057	6,594
February	3,618	3,147	3,200	3,088	3,108	3,214	3,270	3,938	3,370	3,666	3,170	3,265
March	3,496	3,542	2,700	2,352	2,793	3,220	2,724	2,869	3,002	2,948	2,784	2,881
April	3,496	3,726	2,862	2,354	2,941	2,916	3,360	2,826	2,948	3,081	2,829	2,949
May	2,380	2,266	2,085	1,944	1,982	1,913	2,075	2,351	2,330	2,265	2,033	2,129
June	2,887	2,221	1,982	1,993	2,252	2,449	2,280	2,222	2,689	2,470	2,120	2,484
July	2,533	2,250	2,512	2,594	2,029	2,143	2,337	2,254	2,281	2,317	2,246	2,423
August	2,109	1,729	1,850	2,101	1,535	1,596	1,680	1,631	1,842	1,662	1,466	1,650
September	1,941	1,773	1,529	2,307	1,544	1,740	1,700	1,825	1,579	1,626	1,744	1,758
October		3,506	3,606	2,983	2,689	3,580	3,142	3,392	3,245	2,943	2,860	2,822
November		4,549	4,159	3,618	3,378	3,997	3,802	4,604	4,835	4,100	4,454	3,215
December		5,004	4,243	4,678	4,065	4,952	4,851	4,883	5,036	4,226	4,365	4,408

Continued Claims

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992
January	53,085	53,709	51,419	52,211	54,354	47,781	57,513	60,632	56,167	52,265	48,165	47,135
February	53,784	52,948	48,992	46,555	48,595	48,151	56,567	59,295	56,942	56,866	49,313	48,102
March	64,009	59,681	47,135	41,532	NA*	57,371	62,496	58,121	53,936	63,207	59,540	53,621
April	42,019	49,457	45,509	34,927	34,300	36,484	44,663	50,358	41,202	42,379	38,521	36,493
May	34,501	31,990	29,667	25,446	30,514	31,079	31,603	34,556	40,259	36,461	30,593	28,913
June	35,666	30,053	25,539	20,656	26,803	26,824	31,786	31,675	29,430	33,520	31,912	31,106
July	29,639	26,277	30,168	24,331	22,030	22,862	25,500	30,194	28,631	26,980	25,848	27,169
August	31,248	21,981	23,194	20,976	24,426	24,425	23,702	23,881	29,528	29,753	27,711	24,322
September	26,774	21,891	20,999	18,885	16,430	17,119	18,950	22,763	20,188	20,614	20,279	22,937
October		21,278	22,919	22,845	19,136	18,228	18,075	22,312	24,457	20,779	20,592	20,689
November		31,258	29,689	27,563	25,507	33,293	27,425	30,126	33,400	35,450	34,318	26,202
December		51,251	48,795	41,649	32,538	37,779	38,941	54,332	41,797	39,504	43,370	42,284

*NA=not available

Trust Fund Growth Over Last Year (%)

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992
January	9.8	8.2	6.7	7.5	10.0	7.7	7.1	7.4	5.2	10.2	6.3	-1.6
February	11.7	9.4	4.4	10.1	9.4	9.5	3.2	9.2	7.7	7.3	9.8	-1.7
March	0.2	18.4	5.4	10.1	12.1	10.5	9.7	9.4	9.3	7.5	8.5	-1.2
April	-1.9	12.5	10.1	8.7	10.0	10.1	4.8	7.8	10.4	2.6	11.1	3.9
May	0.8	10.6	8.5	10.3	9.0	12.2	5.3	4.1	10.9	4.5	11.1	5.6
June	-1.0	10.1	8.4	13.4	9.6	11.9	3.5	6.0	10.6	6.8	5.5	5.2
July	-1.8	9.3	10.0	9.8	4.6	14.0	2.6	3.0	11.3	4.1	6.8	7.9
August	-1.0	9.3	8.4	8.4	9.4	11.2	4.7	4.6	10.2	6.0	6.6	7.3
September	-2.3	9.6	7.7	10.4	9.6	11.5	3.2	6.1	10.5	5.8	7.0	6.3
October		11.4	8.3	6.3	8.5	10.9	4.4	6.1	10.4	7.0	6.9	6.4
November		11.5	7.6	6.2	10.0	9.7	5.9	6.1	7.9	6.7	7.6	9.4
December		11.1	6.9	7.8	10.5	10.1	7.6	4.2	8.1	7.2	7.4	7.6

Source: This table was prepared by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Research and Analysis Bureau. Unemployment Insurance claims and payments data was derived from the ETA 5-159 (Employment and Training Administration Claims and Payment Activities) report. Trust Fund Growth data was derived from the ETA 2-112 (Employment and Training Administration Unemployment Insurance Financial Transaction Summary) report.

Benchmarking

Data included in this publication reflect the current benchmarks for the nonagricultural wage and salary employment series and the labor force series. The annual tables included in this publication also reflect these benchmarks.

A benchmark is a point of reference from which measurement can be made, or upon which adjustments are based.

The two series are estimated differently:

(1) The level of nonagricultural wage and salary employment is based on an estimate of the month-to-month change in an established level of employment.

The benchmark is a reasonably complete count of the number of all employees in an industry at a specific point in time, and sets the level of employment from which the month-to-month change is measured. The base of the benchmark is the ES-202, which is a complete count of all employees covered by Montana unemployment insurance laws.

The ES-202 is adjusted by special surveys to include employees not covered by unemployment insurance laws.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment estimates are compared to the ES-202 on an annual basis and adjusted accordingly (benchmarked) for estimation errors that may have occurred due to sample error, changes in industrial classification of individual firms, the presence of noncovered employees and the opening or closing of businesses.

(2) Statewide labor force data is derived from a monthly sample of households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the U.S. Department of Labor. Known as the Current Population Survey (CPS), this data is designed to be statistically significant on a monthly basis for the nation. States with small populations, however, do not have a large enough sample to ensure reliability on a monthly basis. This is the main reason for benchmarking the labor force series in Montana. The labor force series also includes the benchmarked nonagricultural wage and salary employment by industry in its benchmarking process. Revisions to the labor force series is normally limited to the preceding three years. Occasionally, a longer benchmark is warranted. For instance, the 1990-95 labor force series was revised in 1997 to incorporate census data revisions.

Reliability of CES estimates

The Current Employment Statistics (CES) uses sample-based estimates. Differences between the CES estimates and benchmarked data may be caused by sampling error, changes in industry classification of businesses, or openings and closings of businesses. Thus, the CES estimates are adjusted each year during the benchmark process (*see benchmarking explanation above*).

Glossary of terms

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the armed forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers who work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployed - those persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of people by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of jobs by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed using the X-12 ARIMA method of seasonal adjustment. This is the same method used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to seasonally adjust the national labor force series.

8. MSA - Metropolitan Statistical Area - as determined by the Office of Management and Budget. The MSA must have a central city with a population of 50,000 or more.

9. LFA - Labor Force Area as determined by the Research and Analysis Bureau, Montana Department of Labor and Industry, consists of a central city or cities with a population of less than 50,000 and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

10. LWIA - The enactment of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 was the first wholesale reform of the nation's job training system in more than 15 years. Montana's State Workforce Investment Board was created by the governor in response to this act and its first task was to certify the local workforce investment areas (LWIA), which are guided by local workforce investment boards (these local boards replaced JTPA's Private Industry Councils). The two LWIAs for Montana are known as Rural Concentrated Employment Program, or CEP (Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Granite, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Madison, Meagher, Powell, and Silver Bow counties), and Balance of State (the other 46 counties).

11. BENCHMARKING - is a continuous process of establishing a new set of data which affects the series of estimates through revisions. Once a new benchmark is established, the adjustments to estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one are carried forward progressively to the current month by use of sample trends. The benchmark is established less frequently (usually once a year) based on sample or secondary data. In the case of employment data, the benchmark is used to establish the level of employment, while the sample is primarily used to measure the month-to-month changes in the level.

12. CES-790 Program - Current employment statistics survey produces monthly estimates of a wide variety of employment and earnings information for the nation, each state and Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). Because this information comes from a survey of employers, persons who work for two different companies would be counted twice. Thus, nonagricultural employment is actually a count of the number of jobs filled, rather than the number of persons employed.

Sources of data

S-1.) Prepared by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). LAUS data (Local Area Unemployment Statistics program) is adjusted to the Current Population Survey benchmark and is the official BLS approved series that is used to allocate federal funds and determine eligibility for federal assistance programs. This series represents employment and unemployment by place of residence, and is not comparable to the place-of-work industry employment series (CES data). LAUS data is calculated for the week that includes the 12th of the month. Workers involved in labor disputes are counted as employed. Total employment in the labor force also includes agricultural workers, unpaid family workers, domestic workers and the self-employed.

S-2.) Prepared by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau. The unadjusted unemployment rate is prepared by the LAUS program in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The seasonally adjusted rate is an unofficial series, and is provided only for use as a state economic indicator.

S-3.) Prepared by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau from LAUS data. Data for Service Delivery Areas and Labor Force Areas is calculated from the official data series by summing up employment and unemployment for the appropriate counties involved, and calculating an unemployment rate from the summed data for each area.

S-4.) Prepared by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data from the CES (Current Employment Statistics) program represents nonagricultural wage and salary employment by place of work, and covers full-time and part-time employees who worked during, or received pay for, the payroll period that includes the 12th of the month. The data excludes the self-employed, volunteers, unpaid family workers and domestic workers. Persons on sick leave, vacations, or holidays (and being paid for that period by their employer) are considered employed. Payroll and worker hour data is collected for production and related workers in manufacturing industries, nonsupervisory workers in private service-producing industries, and construction workers in construction industries. The earnings figures are "gross" figures—that is, they reflect changes in wage rates, shift differentials and premium pay for overtime work. The hours figures relate to the hours for which pay was received, which is different from scheduled or standard work hours.

S-5.) Prepared by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau from a survey of Business Establishments as part of the BLS-790 Program. Information on female employment is computed as a ratio of all employees of the Current Employment Statistics, and is produced for informational purposes only.

S-6.) Tabulations produced by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, and reprinted by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau for informational purposes only. This is a national data series because Montana data is not computed separately.

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For more information on Montana Career Information System sites, contact the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Research and Analysis Bureau, Francis Stephenson, 406-444-0303 or toll-free 800-354-8830, or visit our website: ourfactorsyourfuture.org. See related article on page 1 of this publication.

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